

Scaling-up of GLOF Risk Reduct-UNDP- PAK-00104582

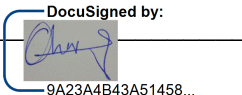
B0424 - Pakistan - Islamabad

REPORTING PERIOD 2017- 2026

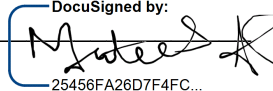
Narrative

REPORT DATE: 02-06-2026

Gohar Yaseen, NPM (a.i), GLOF-II

Sign: 9A23A4B43A51458...

Muteeb Ali, RBM Analyst, UNDP

Sign: 25456FA26D7F4FC...

1. Executive Summary

2. Background

3. Key Results Achieved

- **Level of Reporting:**

Output level results

Project Outputs:

Scaling-up of GLOF Risk Reduct-UNDP-PAK-00104582

Contributing Outcomes:

Outcome 3 By 2027, people living in the Indus River Basin, particularly the most vulnerable, including women, girls, boys, persons with special needs and senior citizens, will have their lives positively impacted by improved water access and utilization, economic development, livelihoods, climate-resilient settlements, and prosperity.

Contributing Outputs:

PAK_OUTPUT_3.1 In line with international conventions and national policy frameworks, implementation mechanisms are strengthened to promote, manage and conserve natural resources

Progress Note:

After the Project's Steering Committee (PSC) held in February 2024, the Project's Annual Work Plan (AWP), amounting to USD 12 Million was approved, following which the Project's actions were rolled out for the year. The focus of the Project in 2024 remained to suitably conclude the work on its construction-based activities and the EWS installation process against which significant progress was made. 292 EWS were assembled at the EWS lab setup in Islamabad, following which the systems were packaged and transferred to the respective warehouses in the provinces. 177 EWS were installed in 18 valleys (11 in GB & 7 in KP), out of which at least 40 stations are actively sending out data. To solidify the communication mechanisms of the EWS, system-wise SIM were procured, with a 3-years' worth data package. In terms of the Project's construction-based actions, 132 irrigation channels were rehabilitated in the Project valleys, alongside the construction of 107 small-scale infrastructures (gabion walls),

contributing to the achievement of 100% of the set project targets. 68 Ha of Slope Stabilization was also undertaken, exceeding the target of 700 Ha. Despite communal disputes in the valleys of Kumrat and Kandia (KP), the Project was able to complete the construction of 10 CBDRM Centers and establish 31 Safe Havens (each with a separate lavatory and room for women & girls). During the reporting period, the Project also rolled out 459 community awareness sessions, mock-drills, stakeholders' communication & coordination workshops, and livelihood trainings, benefitting 26,125 community members, with 9,990 women and girls equipped with knowledge and strategies on disaster risk reduction, financial resilience, and climate adaptation. As part of the Project's media awareness campaign, a Hackathon to incubate climate entrepreneurship in the region was also held, engaging 905 individuals (400 women, 505 men), while also executing a two-day film festival to spread climate-awareness through the medium of art and storytelling. During the reporting period, the project delivered on USD 9.9 Million (83%) against the planned budget. This includes an expenditure of USD 9 million (75%), and USD 0.9 million in commitments (7%). Co-financing of USD 27,608 (PKR 7,647,416[1]) has been reported by the Government of Gilgit Baltistan (GB) for 2024. The co-financing amount was utilized for recruitment of staff based at Planning and Development Department GB (P&DD GB) and different districts to monitor the Project activities.

- -
 -
 -

Use arrow keys to expand and collapse.

4. Key Challenges Encountered

- **Level of Reporting:**

Project level results

Contributing Outcomes:

Contributing Outputs:

Progress Note:

1. Project Extension Initially, the project's completion closure date was scheduled for operational closure on January 11, 2025. However, during the year, UNDP sought and secured a third no-cost extension, moving the completion/closure date to December 31, 2025. During the extension period, the project is to address teething issues encountered during the installation of the Early Warn-ing System (EWS) Network across 24 target valleys and ensure the smooth implementation of the project's Exit Strategy. The request for extension was made to mitigate delays caused due to the following: •

Difficult Terrain: The uneven and mountainous landscape in the target areas created connectivity issues, affecting the communication system via GSM networks and even satellite connections to the central server. • Power Optimization: Given that solar panels are the sole power source for these systems, the geographical conditions have posed challenges in ensuring consistent power supply. 2. Leadership Changes at the MoCC&EC During the reporting period, the National Project Director for GLOF-II within the Ministry was changed three times. These changes were primarily due to political shifts following the 2024 General Elections in Pakistan.

-
-
-
-

Use arrow keys to expand and collapse.

5. Project Risks and Issues

While the overall risk rating for the Project remained moderate in 2024, a major risk remained to be the completion of all construction-based activities (EWS installation, small-scale infrastructures, irrigation channels, CBDRM Centres) in lieu of 2024 being the Project's last year of implementation. Since the installation of many of the systems is on high-altitude locations, marked with difficult terrains and harsh weather conditions, the implementation window remained restrictive, due to which the Project applied for a third no-cost extension. The extension was approved on 29th November 2024, with the focus of the extension being the full operationalization and functionality of the EWS network in the Project valleys. While limited access to Kandia valley in KP was restored and significant progress was made against the Project's interventions, the work on some interventions such as the CBDRM Centres is still in progress. Communal disputes in valleys such as Kandia and Kumrat (KP) remained a pressing risk hindering the execution of some of the project's actions (i.e. EWS, CBDRM Centres, & community trainings).

6. Lessons Learned

- Throughout the year, several key lessons emerged from project implementation in remote areas, particularly in GB and KP. These in-sights will help refine future strategies and ensure smoother execution of similar initiatives. 1. Regulatory Compliance and Stakeholder Engagement Lesson Learnt: It is critical to proactively engage with all relevant regulatory authorities at the outset of a project to identify necessary approvals and ensure timely follow-ups. A structured regulatory assessment should be integrated into project planning to prevent un-foreseen delays. 2. Optimization of Communication Systems Lesson Learnt: UNDP is now optimizing modem selection by reassigning satellite modems where needed and ensuring GSM operators are chosen based on actual network availability in each region. Future assessments should incorporate field verifications of network strength before finalizing

equipment deployment. 3. Community Sensitization and Ownership Lesson Learnt: Community sensitization is essential for the long-term sustainability of EWS. UNDP has planned structured valley-wise sensitization sessions in 2025 to capacitate local communities on the importance, operation, and basic maintenance of EWS infrastructure. This approach will enhance system longevity and instill local ownership.

-
-
-
-

Use arrow keys to expand and collapse.

7. Conclusions and Way Forward

In 2025, the Project's focus shall remain on the implementation of the Project's Exit Strategy, informed with inclusion of women through various trainings and community sessions such that sustainability of the Project can be fully ensured. While the actions for 2025 are centred on the maintenance and functionality of the EWS, community engagement sessions will mandate the representation of women so that knowledge of the Project's interventions and grievance redressal mechanism(s) can be smoothly transferred. Furthermore, the Project shall document stories, case-studies and narratives of women to mainstream their voices and gauge the impact of the Project's interventions. The following gender elements will be included through the Project's activities in 2025: a) Community engagement sessions on the Project's interventions and the Grievance Redressal Mechanism. b) O&M trainings following the actions on construction and EWS installation. c) Development of IEC material (case-studies, success stories, videos, etc.) d) Continuation of gender mainstreaming through the Project's Exit Strategy and Gender Action Plan

8. Other Reporting Requirements

- **Reporting Requirements**

The Project is obliged to report against its Gender Action Plan (GAP) under the respective reporting period. The Gender Action Plan entails gender-centric indicators based on the Project's key outcomes, ensuring that all actions are gender mainstreamed and that inclusion of women and girls is thoroughly ensured.

During the reporting period, it was crucial to ensure inclusion of women and girls across the Project's interventions, ensuring their representation and active participation, and incorporating their concerns into activity implementation. More specifically, 288,174 beneficiaries (49% women and girls) benefited from the Project's interventions such as installation of Early Warning Systems, small-scale infrastructure, irrigation channels, slope stabilization, and various training/awareness sessions, including those on livelihood and financial resilience. As per Annual Work Plan, the project ensured inclusion of women in all coordination and communication workshops to ensure that

their needs were acknowledged and effectively addressed. In order to integrate the actions under the Project’s Gender Action Plan, 22 sessions (6 in KP, 16 in GB) were conducted engaging women members of CBDRM Committees. Additionally, a gender-centric advocacy plan was developed to enhance messaging during the 16 Days of Activism, drawing connections between climate-induced disasters such as GLOFs and gender-based violence. To further explore the intersection of climate change and gender, the Project documented firsthand narratives highlighting the positive impact of inclusive climate programming. One such story emerged from Ghundus Valley (GB), where rehabilitated irrigation channels significantly reduced the workload for girls, allowing them to contribute more to household income and focus on education. With reliable access to water for vegetation, the project’s interventions directly improved both livelihoods and educational attainment. The Project also expanded climate change awareness initiatives in schools and colleges across GB and KP, complemented by the ‘Baraf Bano’ educational kits. A film festival was organized, showcasing stories of women and girls affected by floods and GLOFs in the Indus Delta. Additionally, a climate-centric hackathon was held, selecting nine women (out of 18 participants) from KP and GB for a three-day boot camp to incubate climate entrepreneurship in the region. Despite prevailing socio-cultural norms that often hinder women’s participation in project valleys, particularly in KP, the Project strategically facilitated separate training sessions and mock drills for women and girls. This ensured their active engagement while respecting cultural sensitivities, thereby accelerating inclusive growth and resilience-building within the communities. To strengthen women’s financial resilience and economic empowerment, 65 livelihood training sessions were conducted, equipping 1,150 women with skills and resources for honeybee farming, kitchen gardening, and tailoring. Furthermore, 33 women received training on financial resilience through various insurance mechanisms, enhancing both their financial security and climate adaptation strategies. At the Project’s CBDRM Centres and Safe Havens, separate rooms and lavatories for women and girls have been established for safe communal spaces, where women will not be challenged.

-
-
-
-

Use arrow keys to expand and collapse.